



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM: 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: April 11, 2005

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XVII: Consideration of resolution authorizing acceptance of an approximately 120-acre donation (APNs 4455-006-032 and 033) in the Cold Creek watershed and acceptance of a maintenance endowment, unincorporated Calabasas area.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing acceptance of a donation of APNs 4455-006-032 and 033 in the Cold Creek watershed and the acceptance of a maintenance endowment.

Background: The majority of the subject 120-acre donation area is the Cold Creek watershed and smaller portions lie in the Topanga Canyon (Red Rock) and Los Angeles River (Dry Creek) watersheds. The property abuts two Los Angeles County owned open space parcels totaling over 100 acres to the east and northeast as shown on the attached aerial photograph. The property encompasses the entirety of the Calabasas Connector trail or "Secret trail" that links Mulholland Highway to the Calabasas Peak Motorway. There is an existing trailhead on Mulholland Highway. That trail easement through the property is owned by Los Angeles County. The property includes a year-round spring and numerous other well developed pockets of riparian habitat. It also provides significant viewshed along Mulholland Highway. Acquisition of the property will provide a major new component to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

A detailed GIS analysis of the potential brushing liability shows that only approximately 0.1 acres will require annual fuel modification. The adjoining Mountain Park Estates development was specifically designed to keep all of the brushing within the tract boundaries. Nonetheless, the generous donor has also agreed to provide a minimum \$25,000-\$30,000 endowment to handle the maintenance responsibilities.

